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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
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December 17, 2003

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Keith Farrell, Designated Project Coordinator
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Re: Dico Oil - Comments to Soil Sampling Plan, dated December 10, 2003.
EPA Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) 9-2003-14

Please address the following comments to the Soil Sampling Plan in a re-submitted document to be delivered prior to the January 5, 2003 implementation date.

1.8 DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORDER

- The documents described by the final two bullets in this section should be identified as documents that were terminated and not implemented.

1.9 WORK COMPLETED

- Only residual solid bulk wastes from the ASTs were contained within twenty 55-gallon drums and one roll-off bin.

3.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- A key project objective includes the cleanup and disposal of PCB remediation waste in conformance with the self-implementing cleanup provisions described at 40 CFR 761.61(a). These provisions are considered "applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements" (ARAR) as provided at 40 CFR 300.415(j).

- It should be clearly stated that this plan only addresses site characterization as specified at 40 CFR 761.61(a)(2), 40 CFR 761.260, and 40 CFR 761.265(a). Sampling to verify completion of self-implementing cleanup as required at 40 CFR 761 Subpart O will be addressed in a separate plan document.

3.2 CLEANUP GOALS

- The EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) for industrial soil (750 mg/kg lead and 450 mg/kg chromium) will be considered only to the extent they are not inconsistent with hazardous waste determinations imposed by the State of California requirement for Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC) analysis for samples exceeding certain Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLC) threshold values.

3.4.1 Concrete Sampling Rationale and 3.4.2 Soil Sampling Rationale

- 40 CFR 761 Subparts N and O are specific as to the selection of sample locations and criteria for minimum number of samples. Samples representing the concrete approach (B-1 to B-3), the truck loading/unloading area (B-4 to B-6), and the eastern edge of the site (B-81 to B-83) are in a different category from those proposed for the former tank farm (B-7 to B-56) and the former drum storage area (B-57 to B-80).

The tank farm and drum storage location samples consider the required square grid and grid size and are defined “cleanup sites” within this remediation waste location. The other “areas” are being investigated in a preliminary manner to ascertain whether they may be required to undergo the more comprehensive sampling design. This is approved, so long as the text clearly separates these two objectives.

- 40 CFR 761.286 requires a maximum depth of 7.5 cms. Please change your first depth increment from 0.5 foot to 3 inches to account for this requirement. This requirement may be altered due to field conditions which should be specified (i.e., obvious fill, vegetation, etc). The 2.5 and 5.0 foot increments (as specified) are appropriate for the non-PCB Rule objectives of this effort (waste determination).
- This Soil Sampling Plan is designed around very specific regulatory requirements of the PCB Rule. Section 3.4.2, in particular, requires specific references to the PCB Rule to serve as “crosswalks” between the requirements and the chosen methods. Specifically:
 - In addition to the information in Table 2, describe the proposed compositing technique against the requirements of 40 CFR 761.289. Provide a diagram of the composite areas.
 - Change the existing reference 40 CFR 761.283 to 40 CFR 761.265.

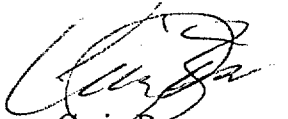
- Discuss how the “area of inference” introduced at 40 CFR 761.283(d) will be integrated into the design.

- Provide for matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate samples in addition to duplicate composite samples.

3.9 QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL (QAPP)

- Please consider the comments listed in my Dico Oil - Comments to Supplement #6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Benson", is written over a circular stamp that is partially obscured.

Craig Benson
U.S. EPA
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
200 Oceangate, Suite 900
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cc: Elizabeth Cox, ORC